



BACKGROUND

The public health and health services research communities need to have a voice at the table in the development of national health data standards. This is the driving force behind the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC). The Consortium was established in response to recommendations from a 1998 workshop that explored the implications of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Administrative Simplification Provisions for the practice of public health and health services research. These provisions direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to adopt a variety of administrative and financial health care standards. They also encourage standardization of electronic patient medical records and provide an impetus for more comparable and secure data across the spectrum of health and health care.

Participants at the HIPAA Workshop developed consensus recommendations for establishing a Consortium to organize the public health and the health services research communities on data standards issues. This Consortium, established in January 1999, serves as a mechanism for ongoing representation of public health and health services research interests in data standards setting processes including HIPAA implementation.

GOALS OF THE CONSORTIUM

- Improve the health and health care of the U.S. population through improved health related information
- Convene local, state, and national health services researchers and public health practitioners around data standards issues, utilizing existing organizations to facilitate communication with and disseminate information to other stakeholders
- Identify high priority data needs that can be met through the HIPAA transaction and clinical standards, as well as other standards setting processes (e.g., American National Standards Institute-Accredited Standards Committee (ANSI ASC) X12 and Health Level 7 (HL7))
- Continue representation and participation on data content committees (e.g., National Uniform Billing Committee and National Uniform Claim Committee)
- Educate public health practitioners, health services researchers and other stakeholders about standards issues, working through member organizations as appropriate
- Promote Consortium efforts, and relevant efforts of other data organizations and committees, to help ensure continued access to health care information by public health practitioners and by health services researchers, with the appropriate safeguards for confidentiality of individually identifiable data

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the PHDSC is to improve the health and health care of the U.S. population through improved health related information by expanding involvement in existing health data standards and content organizations. The Consortium determines standards needs through consultation with stakeholders, facilitates the use of existing national standards and identifies priorities for the development of new national data standards for public health and health services research. The Consortium works with its members and other partners to educate the public health and the health services research communities about health data standards issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Consortium membership is open to any organization with a public health focus and with an interest in data standardization for the purposes of health services research and public health practice. These members may include any organization that collects, generates, or uses public health data to improve the physical and mental health of a population.

CONTACTS

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PUBLIC HEALTH
DATA STANDARDS
CONSORTIUM

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January 1999 - Consortium established

August 1999 - National Uniform Billing Committee and the National Uniform Claim Committee approved Federal and State Consortium representation

1999-2000 - National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO) study to identify the priority encounter data elements most urgent to the needs of public health and health services research

December 7, 1999 - Educational teleconference addressing HIPAA and data standards

February 2000 - ANSI ASC X12 Claim/Encounter Workgroup approved the Department of Health and Human Services request to change the next version of the 837 Institutional Guide to allow the collection of race/ethnicity on the claim. The business case was developed by the Consortium, which had identified the value of this information to the numerous States that collect it

March 2000 - 1st Annual Consortium Steering Committee meeting:

- Developed operating principles to govern Consortium
- Established Education workgroup to develop and implement Consortium Education Strategy
- Established E-codes, Mother's Medical Record Number and Payer-Type workgroups to assist in further exploring the

need to include these high-priority data elements in the national HIPAA Standards and Implementation Guides

June 2000 - ANSI ASC X12 approved the Consortium's request to add the Mother's Medical Record Number to the X12 837 Institutional Standard

February 2001 - ANSI ASC X12 approved development of the Health Care Service Data Reporting Guide, based on the 837 Institutional Standard

February - April 2001 - Participated in the Designated Standards Maintenance Organizations (DSMO) process to review change requests to the HIPAA transaction standards

2000-2001 - Developed Education Strategy, under contract with The Lewin Group and NAHDO, to migrate to national data standards

March 2001 - 2nd Annual Consortium Steering Committee Meeting. Identified Education Strategy priorities for 2001-2002:

- Strengthen educational partnerships
- Coordinate educational activities with the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS)
- Secure funding for Education Strategy
- Develop and disseminate educational messages
- Develop web-based resource center
- Create Health Care Service Data Reporting Guide

July 2001 - Convened a Strategic Planning meeting to provide guidance to new work groups to implement the Consortium's education strategy

2001-2002 - Developing an ANSI ASC X12 Health Care Service Data Reporting Implementation Guide to

provide a uniform framework to report public health and research utilization data across states

March 2002 - Developed and implemented a Health Data Standards Survey to determine the educational needs of public health practitioners and health researchers on health data standards issues

March 2002 - Developed a white paper based on an analysis of the Health Data Standards Survey to guide the Consortium on building a web-based resource center for public health practitioners and health researchers with educational tools and information on health data standards issues

March 2002 - 3rd Annual Consortium Steering Committee meeting. Presented a framework for the Consortium's Business Development Plan

COMMUNICATION

The Consortium has established a ListServ called the PH-CONSORTIUM-L. Subscription to this listserv is not restricted to member organizations but is open to anyone who wishes to participate. To subscribe to the PH-CONSORTIUM-L listserv, send an e-mail to LISTSERV@LIST.NIH.GOV with the following text in the message body:

SUBSCRIBE PH-CONSORTIUM-L YOUR NAME

The website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Health Statistics is the home for the PHDSC's website.

www.cdc.gov/nchs/otheract/phdsc/phdsc.htm.

